



Safety Spot

Community Risk Reduction

THANKSGIVING COOKING



COOKING THIS THANKSGIVING?

Thanksgiving is the leading day of the year for home fires involving cooking equipment. The kitchen is the heart of the home, especially at Thanksgiving. Kids love to be involved in holiday preparations. Safety in the kitchen is important, especially on Thanksgiving Day when there is a lot of activity and people at home. Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Kids can get involved in Thanksgiving preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) continues to believe that turkey fryers that use cooking oil, as currently designed, are not suitable for safe use by even a well-informed and careful consumer. These turkey fryers use a substantial quantity of cooking oil at high temperatures and units currently available for home use pose a significant danger that hot oil will be released at some point during the cooking process. In addition, the burners that heat the oil can ignite spilled oil. The use of turkey fryers by consumers can lead to devastating burns, other injuries, and the destruction of property. NFPA urges those who prefer fried turkey to seek out professional establishments, such as grocery stores, specialty food retailers, and restaurants, for the preparation of the dish, or consider a new type of "oil-less" turkey fryer."

LOCAL FACT:

Thanksgiving is the leading day for home fires involving cooking equipment, with 3 times the average number of fires!



Action Steps You Can Take:

- ☐ Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- ☐ Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- ☐ Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- ☐ Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- ☐ Always set a timer to remind you of when to check in on your cooking and baking.
- ☐ Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- ☐ Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- ☐ Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- ☐ Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children – up high in a locked cabinet.

**Source National Fire Protection Association*